

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCI-06 DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10

RSC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-11 /060 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: NASA-I: BGOETZ

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R 051701Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AFETR PATRICK AFB

AFSC ANDREWS AFB (DOSF)

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217593

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJ: ARIA SUPPORT OF PROJECT SKYLAB (SL-4)

1. TO SUPPORT PROJECT SKYLAB AND IN PARTICULAR THE THIRD MANNED MISSION (SL-4), A REQUIREMENT EXISTS FOR SPECIALLY INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT TO RECEIVE AND RECORD TELEMETRY AND TO SERVE AS A VOICE COMMUNICATIONS RELAY WITH ASTRONAUTS DURING CRITICAL LAUNCH AND REENTRY PHASES WHICH CANNOT BE OBSERVED BY LAND OR SHIP STATIONS OR NASA'S TRACKING NETWORK. TO PROVIDE THIS CAPABILITY THE US AIR FORCE, ON BEHALF OF NASA, PLANS TO UTILIZE ADVANCED RANGE INSTRUMENTATION AIRCRAFT(ARIA). THESE ARE THE SAME AIRCRAFT WHICH PROVIDED SIMILAR SUPPORT DURING PROJECT APOLLO AND THE FIRST SKYLAB LAUNCHINGS FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS WORLD-WIDE.

2. THE SKYLAB PROJECT UTILIZES AN EARTH-ORBITING WORKSHOP CONSISTING OF AN S-IVB ROCKET STAGE MODIFIED TO
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PROVIDE LIVING AND WORKING QUARTERS FOR THREE MEN. AFTER THE

MANNED WORKSHOP SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT INTO ORBIT, IT IS BEING VISITED BY TEAMS OF THREE ASTRONAUTS CARRIED IN A MODIFIED APOLLO COMMAND ANDSERVICE MODULE LAUNCHED SEPARATELY. TWO MANNED VISITS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED THUS FAR AND THE THIRD (SL-4) IS SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCHING NOVEMBER 10. THE CREW WILL CONDUCT A WIDE RANGE OF INVESTIGATIONS DESIGNED TO INCREASE MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUN, STARS, AND EARTH, AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON MAN'S CAPABILITIES FOR LONG-TERM OPERATIONS IN SPACE. INCLUDED AMONG INVESTIGATIONS ARE A SERIES OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS, HIGH RESOLUTION SOLAR ASTRONOMY EXPERIMENTS (WITH CONCENTRATION ON COMET KOHOUTEK DURING SL-4), EARTH RESOURCES EXPERIMENTS, AND SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPERIMENTS.

3. SL-4 IS PLANNED AS A 60-DAY OPEN-ENDED MISSION WHICH COULD BE EXTENDED UPWARDS TO 85 DAYS. MISSION EXTENSIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON THE 56TH, 63RD, 70TH, AND 77TH DAYS OF FLIGHT BASED ON MEDICAL WELL-BEING OF THE CREW, CONSUMABLES AND WORKLOAD.

4. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TELEMETRY AND VOICE RELAY OF THE COMMAND MODULE FOLLOWING THE REENTRY BURN SEQUENCE AND PRIOR TO EARTH INTERFACE POINT, IT IS DESIRED TO DEPLOY ONE ARIA TO YOKOTA AB, JAPAN FOR STAGING AND RECOVERY. THE ARIA WILL BE POSITIONED IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN EAST AND NORTH OF JAPAN TO PROVIDE REQUIRED COVERAGE. DEPENDENT UPON MISSION LENGTH, ONE OF TWO FOLLOWING SETS OF DATES WOULD BE USED FOR THIS TYPE OF SUPPORT JANUARY 17-20, 1974 OR FEBRUARY 1-4, 1974.

5. STAGING FROM JAPAN IS NEW REQUIREMENT IMPOSED FOR SL-4 MISSION. FYI DEPT REPEATING STATE A-2932 TO EMBASSY WHICH WAS GENERAL INSTRUCTION SENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES PROVIDING SUCH SUPPORT AND AFETR PATRICK MESSAGES 11920Z SEPT FOR REST OF SL-4 SUPPORT MISSION. END FYI.

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM GOJ OF UPCOMING REQUIREMENT AND EXPRESS PURPOSE OF FLIGHT IN GENERAL TERMS AS IN PARA 1 BUT MAY DRAW ON MORE DETAILED INFORMATIN PROVIDED PARA 2, 3, AND 4.

7. UNLESS POST PERCEIVES OBJECTION, CLEARANCE APPROVAL WILL BE SOUGHT BY THE AIR FORCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FOREIGN CLEARANCE
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GUIDE PROCEDURES, AND SPECIFIC DETAILS RE ITINERARY, CREW ETC WILL BE PROVIDED VIA ITS NORMAL OPERATIONAL CHANNELS.

8. PROJECT IS UNCLASSIFIED. THIS MESSAGE CLASSIFIED UNTIL STAGING CONFIRMED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SPACE EXPLORATION, SPACE FLIGHT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE217593
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: I: BGOETZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731154/aaaabnry.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARIA SUPPORT OF PROJECT SKYLAB (SL-4)
TAGS: TSPA, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005